

On Page 2, amend the second full paragraph as follows:

At the checkout system 1 shown in Fig. 1, purchase items are automatically identified by the laser scanning bar code reader 2 as the cashier moves the items in the direction towards the package area where the scanned items are bagged. Automatically the price of each scanned item is displayed on a price display monitor 3 typically located above the cash register terminal 4 in a direction facing away from the item movement direction, illustrated in Fig. 1. Conventional checkout counter arrangements of such design render it difficult for customers to visually track scanned items with their purchased price information being displayed on the price display monitor 2 3. Visual tracking becomes even more difficult when large checkout lines are formed and the cashier is pressured to scan purchase items at the highest speeds humanly possible. In such instances, the customer is typically resigned to accept that scanned items have been properly marked with correct price information, as price verification on the display 3 by the customer is virtually impossible if and when the slightest distraction occurs along the checkout counter. When the customer is accompanied by children, visual price verification tends to become even more difficult.

On Page 8, amend the first paragraph as follows:

Fig. 1 is a schematic representation of a conventional (i.e. prior art) POS checkout station, wherein (i) a projection-type or bioptical-type laser-scanning bar code symbol reading system with an integrated electronic produce scale subsystem is installed within the countertop surface (e.g. between a pair of conveyor belts), (ii) a customer courtesy stand straddles the laser scanner and supports an ATM terminal on the customer side of the checkout counter, whereas a cashier scale terminal (comprising a LCD panel and keyboard) is supported on the cashier side of the counter, and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane, so as to enable the cashier to enter (i.e. key) information into the system about products and produce items to be weighed by the electronic scale subsystem, and (iii) a computer-based cash register system having a customer-viewable price-verification and advertisement display panel which is installed on the cashier side of the check-out counter away from but interfaced with the bar code scanning system and electronic product scale subsystem;

On Page 10, amend the third and fourth paragraphs as follows:

Fig. 5 is an elevated rear view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Figs. 3A through 4B, showing the vertical scanning window of the POS-based Bioptical Laser Scanning Bar Code Reading Unit and the cashier checkout terminal (with LCD panel and membrane keyboard) provided on the cashier's side of the system and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane;

Fig. 6 is an elevated front view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Figs. 3A through 4B, showing (i) the Internet-enabled Customer Kiosk Terminal (with LCD panel and touch-screen keyboard integrated therewith) provided on the cashier's side of the system and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane, (ii) the transaction terminal associated with the ATM submodule, (iii) the hand-set associated with the voice-over-IP phone module, and (iv) the courtesy desk surface disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal;

On Page 11, amend the third and fourth paragraphs as follows:

Fig. 10 is an elevated rear view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 9, showing the vertical scanning window of the POS-based Bioptical Laser Scanning Bar Code Reading Unit and the cashier scale terminal (with LCD panel and membrane keyboard) provided on the cashier's side of the system and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane;

Fig. 11 is an elevated front view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 9, showing (i) the customer-kiosk transaction terminal (with LCD panel and touch-screen keyboard integrated therewith) provided on the customer's side of the system and aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, (ii) the transaction terminal associated with the ATM submodule, (iii) the hand-set associated with the voice-over-IP phone module, and (iv) the courtesy desk surface disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal;

On Page 12, amend the first, second and last paragraphs as follows:

Fig. 15 is an elevated rear view of the POS-Based Laser Scanning Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 14, showing the cashier-scale-transaction terminal (with LCD panel and membrane keyboard) provided on the cashier's side of the system and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane;

Fig. 16 is an elevated front view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 14, showing (i) the customer-kiosk transaction terminal (with LCD panel and touch-screen keyboard integrated therewith) provided on the customer's side of the system and aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, (ii) the transaction terminal associated with the ATM submodule, (iii) the hand-set associated with the voice-over-IP phone module, and (iv) the courtesy desk surface disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal;

Fig. 20 is an elevated rear view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 19, showing the cashier-transaction terminal (with LCD panel and membrane keyboard) provided on the cashier's side of the system and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane;

On Page 13, amend the first paragraph as follows:

Fig. 21 is an elevated front view of the POS-Based Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal illustrated in Fig. 20, showing (i) the customer-kiosk transaction terminal (with LCD panel and touch-screen keyboard integrated therewith) provided on the customer's side of the system and aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, (ii) the transaction terminal associated with the ATM submodule, (iii) the hand-set associated with the voice-over-IP phone module, and (iv) the courtesy desk surface disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal;

On Page 15, amend the last paragraph as follows:

As shown in Fig. 6, the customer at the POS station faces (i) the Internet-enabled customer-Kiosk Terminal 13 (with LCD panel 36 and touch-screen keyboard 37 integrated therewith) provided on the ~~cashier's~~ customer's side of the system and aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, as well as (ii) the financial transaction terminal 38 associated with the ATM submodule 27, (iii) the hand-set 39 associated with the voice-over-IP phone module 29, and (iv) the courtesy desk surface 40 disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal 13. Preferably, Internet-enabled kiosk terminal (computer subsystem) 13 is provided with an Advertisement/Promotion Mode of display operation so that it is capable of displaying advertisements and promotions (of the hosting retailer or other retailers) on display 36, 37 while the cashier is not scanning products and the price and product information thereof is not being displayed during its Price/Product Information Display Mode. The enabling infrastructure for enabling the creation and delivery of such product/service advertisements and promotions on the Internet-enabled customer kiosk terminal 13 is taught in great detail in published WIPO Publication No. WO 01/37540 A2 by IPF, Inc., incorporated herein by reference. Such advertising and promotions can relate to the products offered for sale in the hosting retailer store, services and products offered for sale in local and/or regional markets, as well as community news, sporting events, recreational events as well as local educational programs and the like.

On Page 18, amend the last paragraph as follows:

As shown in Fig. 11, the customer at the POS station faces (i) the Internet-enabled Customer-Kiosk-Terminal 13 (with LCD panel 36 and touch-screen keyboard 37 integrated therewith) provided on the ~~cashier's~~ customer's side of the system and aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, as well as (ii) the financial transaction terminal 38 associated with the ATM submodule 28', (iii) the hand-set 39 associated with the voice-over-IP phone module 29', and (iv) the courtesy desk surface 40 disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal 13. Preferably, the display screen 36 is provided with an Advertisement/Promotion Mode of display operation so that it is capable of displaying

advertisements and promotions (of the hosting retailer or other retailers) while the cashier is not scanning products and the price and product information thereof is being displayed during its Price/Product Information Display Mode. The enabling infrastructure for enabling the creation and delivery of such product/service advertisements and promotions on the Internet-enabled customer kiosk terminal 13 is taught in great detail in published WIPO Publication No. WO 01/37540 A2 by IPF, Inc., supra, incorporated herein by reference. Notably, such advertising and promotions can relate to the products offered for sale in the hosting retailer store, services and products offered for sale in local and/or regional markets, as well as community news, sporting events, recreational events as well as local educational programs and the like.

On Page 20, amend the last paragraph as follows:

As shown in Fig. 15, POS-Based Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated And Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal 70 comprises: a cashier-transaction terminal 75 (with a LCD panel 76 and a membrane keyboard 77) provided on the cashier's side of the system, and aligned with the customer terminal along a common viewing plane, as shown; a customer-kiosk transaction terminal 78 (with a LCD panel 79 and a touch-screen keyboard 80 integrated therewith) supported on the customer's side of the system as shown; a financial transaction terminal 81 associated with an ATM submodule 82 mounted to a first side of the scanner/kiosk housing; a hand-set 83 associated with the voice-over-IP phone module 84 mounted to the second side of the scanner/kiosk housing; and a courtesy desk surface 85 disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal 78. These components are generally similar to the components described in connection with systems shown in Figs. 3A and 9, supra.

On Page 23, amend the first paragraph as follows:

As shown in Fig. 20, POS-Based Bar Code Reading Cash Register System With An Integrated And Internet-Enabled Customer-Kiosk Terminal 90 comprises: a cashier-transaction terminal 97 (with a LCD panel 98 and a membrane keyboard 99) provided on the cashier's side of the system; a customer-kiosk transaction terminal 100 (with a LCD panel 101 and a touch-screen keyboard 102 integrated therewith) supported on the customer's side of the system, and

aligned with the cashier terminal along a common viewing plane, as shown; a financial transaction terminal 103 associated with an ATM submodule 104 mounted to a first side of the scanner/kiosk housing 93; a hand-set 105 associated with the voice-over-IP phone module 106 mounted to the second side of the scanner/kiosk housing 93; and a courtesy desk surface 107 disposed beneath the customer-kiosk transaction terminal 100. Most of these components are generally similar to the components described in connection with systems shown in Fig. 14, supra, .